

**Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
May 5, 2006**

Participants		
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Handouts

- Agenda
- May 5, 2006 Michigan Solid Waste Policy (Draft)
- April 21, 2006 Meeting Summary

Introductions and notes from previous meeting

- Notes from April 21, 2006 meeting approved for posting on web site.

Explanation of Where Policy Will Go from Here

- Still ambiguous as to what “Michigan” means. Who is it? Address in narrative. Also a definition section is needed.
- Narrative: SWPAC will work on together once we receive EAC feedback.

Committee Review of Michigan Solid Waste Policy

Policy Statement 1.a.i. (reduce waste generation)

- Examples -add to narrative explanation.
- Discussion of the 50 percent utilization goal by 2015.
- Concern that it is guesswork.
- There is precedent to set at 50 percent per other states.
- Task of on-going advisory committee to evaluate and make changes.
- Too specific—should let on-going committee set first goal.
- Use national benchmarks for evaluation.
- Need to set a goal based on reasonable standards.
- Need goal to drive other things—measurement to drive policy forward.
- Set bar high if long-term policy.
- Don’t know if we can meet goal as set.
- Policy statements forward looking.
- What we want to have happen? Not have problem with goal if you don’t make county plans have to have more than they can do.
- What goes into percent figures people use, measurement standards as to how to calculate that percentage.
- Some communities do know the percentage that’s being utilized.
- Oil prices—How will prices effect waste utilization/recycling?
- Any mandates have to go through the Legislature.
- Recommendations not set in stone.
- Idea of continuous improvement but don’t know baseline; reference true baseline and increase by 50 percent a year (compounded).
- Advocate for increase if get into a discussion; then go back and revisit.
- Link goal to benchmark to national standards.
- Acknowledge in narrative that we don’t have data and this is a goal to work toward and not a mandate.

Policy Statement 1.b.iii. (encourage waste utilization)

- Convenient—define it or add in cost effective.

- Narrative short paragraph under each statement to describe what it means.
- Narrative: looking at capacity in a region rather than individual facilities. Do not create a monopoly and not limit individual facilities ability to expand.
- Determination of need process in Illinois and Indiana to take into account capacity and availability.
- How far do we need to go in document to address issues? Members express their concerns. Might need to write narrative.

Policy Statement 2.b.iii. (ensure appropriate capacity to utilize and dispose of waste)

- Local units of government may not have expertise to make those decisions.
- What does “best position” mean?
- Access to adequate disposal capacity.
- LUG—impediments to process so in best position to determine how to provide capacity.
- LUG’s in legal position to decide how to address issues; page 6 talk about role id.
- Agreed to delete 2.b.iii.

Policy Statement 3 (improve waste management capabilities)

- OSW issue narrative?
- Ramifications of some popular ideas such as tariffs—which have unintended consequences. Stress need to look at policy as a whole and not put a political bent on it.
- Waste as a resource vs. encourage others to take care of their own.
- Regional—What it means? Is this just about imports?
- Transboundary movements of waste addresses both imports/exports.
- “Regional System”—ambiguous and that’s good. Varies based on place, time, etc.
- Explain in narrative what is meant by regional system.
- Talking about political jurisdictions. Should just say operating in National and International system (global system).
- Really talking about economic systems (global economy).
- What does “waste” mean in statement? Waste meant stuff going for disposal in original discussion.
- Should be taken in broader content. All waste or solid waste? 3.a. says solid waste.

Policy Statement 4 (appropriately use regulatory requirements to encourage choices consistent with management preferences)

- Concern over deposit system. Burden on retailers and manufacturers.

- Want stricken—ii would cover, says consider not encourage and states under what circumstances such a system would be used. Have such systems in place that work.
- How deposit systems are designed? Puts burdens on certain players. Provide financial help; that is why equitable in sentence.
- Remove iii, iv, and v—never needed a policy to do before.
- Like these—definitive statements on how managing wastes. Retain but tweak s
- Some want to be silent on these.
- Opportunity to set parameters.
- Disposal bans—need outlet for material; has to be a place for it to go.
- Put specific examples in narrative of the deposit issues and burden on businesses.
- Periodic review of existing disposal bans. Yard clippings for energy production at landfill's. Narrative should mention; what standing committee should be doing.
- SWPAC members to help with narrative on deposit system.
- Other options: advanced recycling fee, etc.-add to narrative.
- Statement in narrative that just because we pulled out some items, there are other tools that could be used and list some of the things mentioned.
- Implied that you are considering whether ban appropriate—go either way.

Policy Statement 5.b.ii. (roles of individual units of government are clearly defined and adequately funded as well as consistent with one another)

- Strike new and existing—just leave funding mechanisms in there.
- Agree to strike.
- Looks like encourages new taxes but doesn't say that.

Policy Statement 6 (regulation should be predictable enough to encourage decisions yet flexible enough for changing circumstances)

- Examples go into narrative.

Policy Statement 7 (develop and implement an effective system for solid waste policy implementation)

- Includes benchmark issue. Same committee on page 7 ii—reference using same terminology/name in both places.

Next Steps

- EAC (2 hours) input on May 18th, 2006. Couple lead in slides (one slid per page) of policy. Get their reaction to it (email it to them next week).
- Narrative as we package it. More work for the SWPAC to do

- Outline of points that will go in narrative and how address concept of a next meeting and when (before that work on narrative—do a lot of it over email).
- June 23 or 1st part of July for next meeting. Possibly a Thursday.
- Review schedule after EAC meeting.
- Planning guidance—list resources in area methane producing landfills in their area due to alternative energy issues.